

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, LGBT advocates around the country commemorate the National Day of Silence, an annual event designed to draw attention to discrimination toward lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered individuals. Students are remaining silent for the whole day to draw notice to harassment, bullying, intimidation and violence.

Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) released the following statement:

"Today is the 14th year we've commemorated the National Day of Silence, a day when students across the country remain silent to draw attention to discrimination toward their LGBT peers.

"Every day, students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender-as well as those who are perceived to be LGBT-are subjected to harassment, bullying, intimidation and violence.

"I'm proud of the thousands of students on the Central Coast and across the country who are joining this effort to end these deplorable acts of discrimination. I'm also proud that we have a group of students in Santa Cruz who are hosting a Queer Youth Health Summit in Santa Cruz. It's groups like these that will help communities across the country become more tolerant.

"I'm also pleased by two recent moves by President Obama. His announcement that hospitals must allow visitation rights for partners of gay men and lesbians is long overdue, and I'm also pleased that he is moving toward ending the Pentagon's 'don't ask, don't tell' policy.

"Many LGBT advocates are silent today, but Congress shouldn't be. We should all be raising our voices to move toward a day when the National Day of Silence isn't necessary."

#